

### **ABSTRACT**

A number of symbols are received in a first integrated circuit (IC) device, where these symbols have been transmitted by a second IC device and are received over a serial point to point link. These symbols include a non-data sequence that has been inserted into a data sequence by the second device. The symbols are loaded into a buffer. The data sequence and some of the non-data sequence is unloaded from the buffer, according to a changing unload pointer. To prevent overflow of the buffer, and in response to detecting the non-data sequence, the unload pointer is changed by more than one entry so that a non-data symbol of the non-data sequence as loaded in the buffer is skipped while unloading from the buffer. In another embodiment, to prevent underflow of the buffer, the unload pointer is stalled at an entry of the buffer that contains a non-data symbol while unloading. Other embodiments are also described and claimed.